

Applicant: Lee W. Squyres
Application No.: 10/685,815

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim one under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,939,989 to Zacharias.

Applicant submits that claim one, as amended, overcomes this rejection. Claim one has been amended to highlight the structural differences between the claimed invention and Zacharias' disclosure.

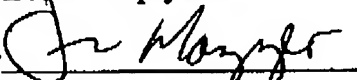
In Zacharias, the central area 30 is not defined by the annular frame 18, but rather by the space occupied by the horizontal rollers 40 and 42. Regardless of where the rollers are positioned, they define the area inside of the annular frame. See Figure 3 in Zacharias. Therefore, the maximum space that a tree trunk can occupy in the central area is not the space created by the annular frame, but the reduced space created by the horizontal rollers.

In contrast, as indicated in amended claim one, a tree trunk in the central area in the claimed invention may occupy the entire central area.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the pending claim one is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and an early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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